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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2002 LB 1040

he says he doesn't need it, so I will waive off in a minute. But I do want to say that we've heard some talk that it's unusual that these bills are submitted without an itemization of hours, and I don't think that's quite unusual. That does happen. Again, these are adjudications. The state has an obligation here, and I think we should pay it. I think we should just argue about 1) is the ALR. Should we continue on with that program? And 2) where should this money come from? Should it come from the Attorney's General (sic) office who assumed this obligation when we first enacted ALR or should we go with the Department of Motor Vehicles to pay these? My feeling is is that the Attorney General has an obligation to represent the state and the state's agencies, and I think that's who should pay this bill. So, I don't know if I'm going to support Senator Connealy's amendment or not. I think the discussion is valuable, but it's obviously a mess, and nobody is stepping forward, none of the state agencies are stepping forward to take care of it. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Well, I appreciate the debate that we've had. Thank you, Speaker. This is a problem that needs to be fixed. I think that we need to bring in the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Attorney General's office to solve this problem. It...there is a problem with specific claims to specific attorneys across the state, but it is a bill that we need to pay. I do not want to bring the claims bill down or take any more time this morning, so at this point, I'll withdraw that amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further on the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bourne, you're recognized for a motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR BOURNE: I move that we advance LB 1040 to E & R for engrossing.